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MEMORANDUM FOR: Rodney B. McDaniel
Executive Secretary
National Security Council

SUBJECT: Talking Points for Upcoming Presidential
News Conference

REFERENCE: Your memorandum of 3 June, same subject

As requested by reference, attached please find one page of talking points for use in subject press conference. I understand you will be receiving talking points from NSA separately.



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Has your administration backed off its threat to prosecute publications or networks which have disclosed information harmful to the national security?

o Bill Casey has gone to unusual lengths in speeches, public statements, and interviews to warn the press and the public about the damage intelligence leaks do to our ability to protect this nation and to inform the media of the law that is on the books to guard our exceptionally vulnerable and sensitive communications intelligence.

o He has rightfully put the media on notice that we are prepared to prosecute violations of this law to protect our valuable and sophisticated communications intelligence methods.

o Mr. Casey has not altered the appeal he has made several times over the past two months that the media voluntarily consult the U.S. Intelligence Community on articles that it believes may damage U.S. intelligence. Some media organizations have responded positively to his request and we are all grateful for their patriotism.

Do you favor prosecuting the media rather than the leakers?

o I favor prosecuting anyone who is violating the laws of the U.S. I am determined to use all existing laws and administrative procedures to stop those entrusted with classified information from providing it to potential or actual enemies of the U.S., either directly or through publication in the media.

o I have over the last several years emphasized the special obligation federal workers have to protect the classified information with which they are entrusted. We are studying procedures and possibly new laws needed to deal with federal employees who decide on their own to disclose classified information.

Are leaks of intelligence information really harmful or merely embarrassing?

o I am concerned about the effect of unauthorized disclosures on our capability to learn the intentions of those who threaten the wellbeing and freedom of Americans--be they superpowers, drug traffickers or terrorists.

o In recent years every method we have of acquiring intelligence--our agents, our relationships with other security services, our photographic and electronic capabilities, the information we get from communications--has been damaged by the publication of unauthorized disclosures.

How can you criticize the media for leaking intelligence when you yourself announced to the U.S. public that we had intercepted Libyan communications?

o Beginning two weeks before my speech--if you check the record--a major news magazine and two networks discussed Libyan communications in such a way as to leave little doubt in the Libyans' mind that they might want to take a look at their communications procedures.

o What I said was far less revealing and was carefully crafted to protect intelligence sources while informing the U.S. public.